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FEBRUARY 15, 2022 | VOLUME 13 | ISSUE 4

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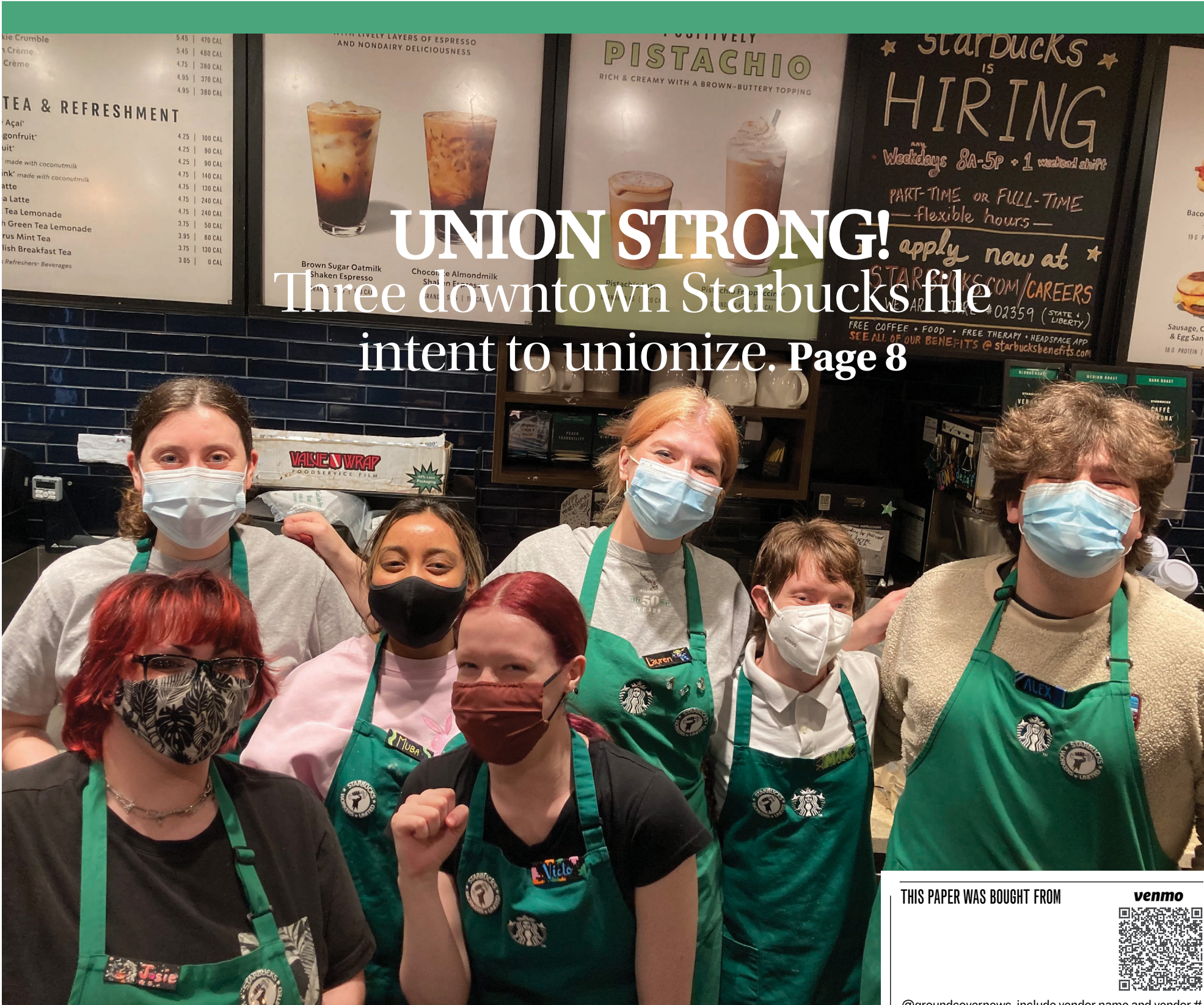
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ASK YOUR
VENDOR:
**HOW DO YOU
TAKE YOUR
COFFEE?**
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GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.

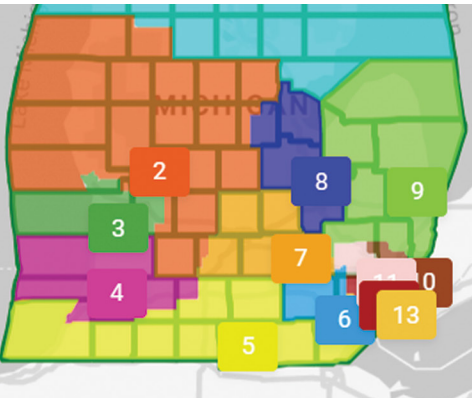


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@groundcovernews, include vendor name and vendor #

in this **ISSUE**



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HELP WANTED

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Jessi and Larzell during vendor week.

ASK YOUR VENDOR

How do you take your coffee?

Just cream and sugar.

— James Manning, #16

Light, and a little bit sweet.

— Jay Gordon, #533

I usually put half-n-half, maple syrup, cinnamon and butter. I learned that from the Tibetans. They put yak butter in their tea.

— Ken Parks, #490

No coffee, just hot chocolate.

— Larzell Washington, #128

I drink water to wake up in the morning.

— Joe Woods, #103

Black. I gradually cut the sugar, then the cream.

— Tony Schol, #9

I drink hot chocolate.

— Derek Allen, #174

Large mocha with seven shots.

— Justen White, #543

Straight black.

— Gary Levertt, #544

Black, straight black.

— James Tennant, #174

I do a small dark coffee, with two creams and two to three sugars. I'm trying to wean off caffanine, though!

— Lit Kurtz, #159

BLACK... No cream, no sugar!

— Will Shakespeare, #258

What would YOU ask?

If you have a question you would like Groundcover vendors to answer in this column, email us at contact@groundcovernews.com

We will be featuring vendor responses in future issues.

Not everyone who starts with you will finish with you



JAY GORDON
Groundcover vendor No. 533

Life is a marathon. We all start together, but clearly, we won't finish together. We start the race in our families learning the basics of morals and ethics. Love and values. In school we learn about friendship and education.

In life we must run our own races. We have friends who we dream and make goals with. We do this with family members we could never see ourselves without or dreamed with your third grade crush that broke your heart.

Many times those people you plan with won't cross that line with you. Your values change. Career goals and family goals morph and evolve. We relocate. Disagreements, and sadly even death.

The purpose of life is to find something you believe in and stand for. Once you find that, your marathon won't be swift, but as long as you're willing to endure and persevere through the cramps (losses) and fatigue (friendships ending), you will cross that finish line satisfied.

Re'venji Justice



CHRISTOPHER ELLIS
Groundcover vendor No. 485

He was literally roasted as freed skeletons draped their unlaundered stripes around him.

Moving like lifeless ghosts, mouths open like a Dante scream, similar to praying mantis oblivious to speed or time.

They caught him against the grey sky putrid smoke terror, and

soft tears.

GROUNDCOVER NEWS

CREATING **OPPORTUNITY** AND A **VOICE** FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE WHILE TAKING ACTION TO END HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY.

Groundcover News, a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in April 2010 as a means to empower low-income persons to make the transitions from homeless to housed, and from jobless to employed.

Vendors purchase each biweekly copy of Groundcover News at our office for 50 cents. This money goes towards production costs. Vendors work selling the paper on the street for \$2, keeping all income and tips from each sale.

Street papers like Groundcover News exist in cities all over the United States, as well as in more than 40 other countries, in an effort to raise awareness of the plight of homeless people and combat the increase in poverty. We are proudly a member of the International Network of Street Papers.

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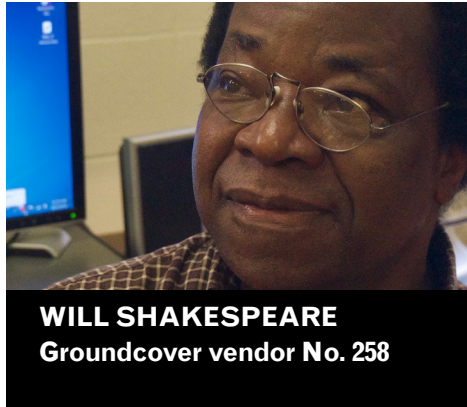
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Black health, wellness before and during COVID-19

"Racism — both interpersonal and structural — negatively affects the mental and physical health of millions of people, preventing them from attaining their highest level of health, and consequently, affecting the health of our nation."

— U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



WILL SHAKESPEARE
Groundcover vendor No. 258

State of Black health and wellness

There is a marked improvement of Black health and wellness from the period of slavery to the present day. Award-winning journalist Nikole Hannah Jones and her colleagues at the *New York Times* have written extensively about the disturbing effects of slavery in their book entitled "1619." This year, the University of Illinois Press published "Medicine and Slavery: The Disease and Health Care of Blacks in Antebellum Virginia," the work of medical historian Dr. Todd Lee Savitt. This detailed research is an important contribution following the excellent work of sociologist Dr. Clovis Semmes whose earlier book is entitled "Racism, Health, and Post Industrialism: A History of African American Health." We encourage our readers to visit bookstores, libraries and book websites in order to read and learn more about Black health and wellness.

There are so many perspectives to be shared on the ASALH's 2022 theme. However, we want to focus on recent events, policy decisions and newer challenges. With the power of congressional legislation and the stroke of a pen by a more progressive president of the United States, more Americans, including Black Americans, have gained improved access to quality health care. The impactful legislation, the Affordable Care Act, dramatically changed the Black health and wellness situation from "bad" to "better." ACA is President Barack Obama's prime legislative achievement and it is fondly referred to as "Obamacare." The legislation was signed into law on March 23, 2010.

Ms. Jamila Taylor, senior fellow and Director of Health Care Reform at the Century Foundation, noted the following facts about the Affordable Care Act: 1. Of more than 20 million people who have gained coverage under the ACA, 2.8 million of them are African-Americans — and yet, this population is more likely to be uninsured than white Americans;

2. The average American family spends around 11% of household income on health care premiums and out-of-pocket costs, but the amount approached 20% for African-American households;

3. Because African-Americans tend to be poorer than other demographic groups on the average, public health insurance programs such as Medicaid are vital to ensure affordable health care and healthier outcomes — yet fourteen states have resisted Medicaid expansion, mostly in the South;

4. Even with improved access to medical care under ACA, the disparities in health outcomes between African-Americans and whites are stark. African-American women are three times more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes than white women, and the African-American infant mortality rate is twice the rate for white infants;

5. Certain social determinants of health such as poverty, income inequality, food insecurity and the lack of safe affordable housing have important implications for health risk and the ability to obtain and retain health insurance coverage for African-Americans;

6. Another important social factor leading to poor health outcomes and economic disadvantage among African-Americans is racism, because not only is it a stressor, leading to wear and tear on the body, but it also impacts who gets what in America, particularly health care; and

7. The nation is at a moment when more progressive health care reform might be possible; any health care reform needs to take these inequities into account in recreating a health care system that serves all Americans. (See The Century Foundation Project on the topic of "Racism, Inequality, and Health Care for African Americans.")

How COVID-19 exposed racial & health injustice in medicine and public health

The African-American community is one of the most ubiquitously underserved communities in America. COVID-19 exposed the widespread disparity in health care access, diagnosis, quality care and therapeutics. It also exposed the higher rates of COVID-19 infections, morbidity and mortality within the Black and Brown communities. The health care outcomes for many Black and minority communities have been troubling in the past couple of years when the world got exposed to various variants of the COVID-19 disease, including the

Alpha, Beta, Delta, and the most recent, Omicron variant. When researchers, policymakers, community members ask why Black people are experiencing a huge disparity in COVID-19 infections, hospitalization and deaths, some publications like Cliff.com offer insightful perspectives. There is an assertion that even during the economic boom of the 1950s and 1960s, the Jim Crow era produced "WHITES ONLY" Hospitals, especially in the Southern regions of the country. The few medical facilities that accepted Black people would carry signs with an arrow which reads, "WAITING ROOM FOR COLORED ONLY — BY ORDER OF POLICE." Black-only medical facilities were often understaffed, lacking adequate hospital supplies, equipment and treatment protocols.

From slavery to the recent past, many African-American communities who lacked access to affordable quality health care had opted for what is known as "the Black folk remedies." These include herbal medicine, incantations and all kinds of plant-based medicines which could be traced back to Africa. Cliff.com noted that many plant-based medicines which were part of the cures and remedies for Black health problems, such as "Garlic for High Blood Pressure" and "Aloe Vera for Skin Injuries," have been validated by scientific research. Nevertheless, use of traditional medical practitioners and the trusting relations that develop are less common in the Black community.

Institutional racism and discrimination in health care started to decline with the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Lyndon B. Johnson's administration threatened to withhold Medicare payments to "Whites Only medical institutions." Consequently, hospitals in the American South and other regions quickly began the process of desegregation. On September 24, 1965, President Johnson issued Executive Order 11246: The Equal Employment Opportunity Law. It prohibited any businesses or institutions that do up to \$10,000 in business with the Federal Government from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin. This Executive Order is seen as a bonanza for the hiring and retention of Black, Hispanic, and female health care workers. For example, Black Americans represent about 12% of the workforce. However, they represent about 30% of the registered and vocational nurses in the health-care industry. Executive Order 11246 has put a dent in workplace

see **HEALTH** next page ➡

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Questions for Washtenaw CERA? We're here to help!
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DHHS FOR ASSISTANCE.**

Visit michiganlegalhelp.org or call 734-665-6181 for resources to help you if you have any legal questions or concerns.

Translation services are available with HAWC.

➡ HEALTH from previous page

segregation and opened the doors of opportunity for all races.

Conclusion

In a recent *Journal of Health and Human Rights*, staff writer Maritza Vasquez Reyes talked about the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on African Americans. The COVID-19 mortality rate since 2020 is quite disturbing. Ms. Reyes noted that, "... approximately 97.9 out of every 100,000 African-Americans have died from Covid-19, a mortality rate that is a third higher than that for Latinos (64.7 per 100,000), and

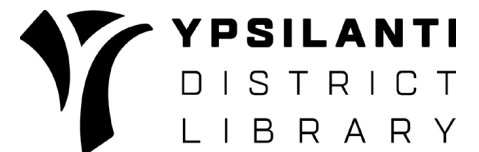
more than double that for Whites (46.6 per 100,000), and Asians (40.4 per 100,000)." Ms. Reyes continued, "The overrepresentation of African-Americans among confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths underscore the fact that the coronavirus pandemic, far from being an equalizer, is amplifying or even worsening existing social inequalities tied to race, class and access to the health care system."

Governor Gretchen Whitmer was so concerned about the COVID-19 impacts on the African Americans in Michigan that she formed a task force led by her second-in-command, Lt. Governor Carlin Gilchrist II, to address emergency issues in

health care disparities. The Governor also said in 2020 that "racism is a public health emergency."

Similarly, Dr. Michelle Williams, the African American Dean of Harvard's T. H. Chan School of Public Health, declared in 2021 that "Racism is a public health crisis."

We encourage our readers to engage in conversations on the intersection of race, racism and health care. The COVID-19 pandemic has not only taken a toll on our physical health and wellness. It has taken a huge toll on our mental health, especially the mental health of our younger and older populations. The pandemic will end someday soon. We are optimistic!



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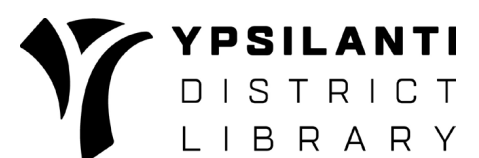
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Michigan redistricting: promise, process, status

ANDRE VASHER
Groundcover contributor

Michigan has brand new electoral maps designed through an innovative new process and the state's politics will never be the same. They were drawn up by a citizen commission, Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, which resulted from a successful statewide ballot proposal in 2018. Its objectives are to achieve independence and fairness by removing redistricting from the hands of politicians. While not perfect, Michigan's redistricting process provides hope for the rest of our country in this time of tremendous bipartisan tension.

The promise

"All political power is inherent in the people." This statement, drawn from the Constitution of the State of Michigan, served as the overall guideline for the formation of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. As a result of the MICRC's work, our state has new electoral maps that will take effect prior to the 2022 primary and general elections.

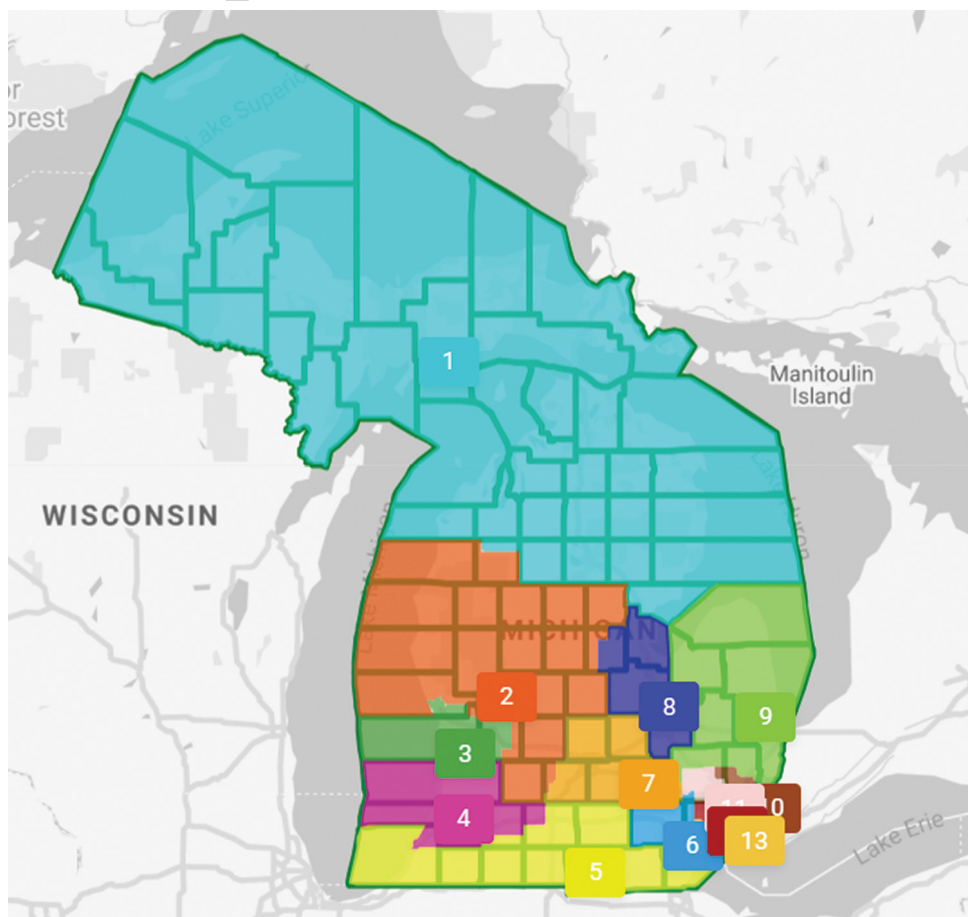
The electoral maps create new Congressional districts, new Senate districts, and new House districts for the State of Michigan. The new boundaries were derived from the findings from the 2020 census. Michigan's now 13 (it was 14) Congressional Districts are highlighted to the right.

The process

All the new maps from the MICRC's work can be viewed in greater detail online at: <https://michigan.mydistricting.com/legdistricting/comments/plan/254/23>

The MICRC was established after Michigan voters approved a 2018 constitutional amendment that transferred the power to draw the state's congressional and legislative districts from the state legislature to an independent redistricting commission. Under the terms of the amendment, "Within 30 days after adopting a plan, the commission shall publish the plan and the material reports, reference materials, and data used in drawing it, including any programming information used

see **DISTRICTS** page 11 ➡



The data from the 2020 census resulted in Michigan losing a Congressional district, bringing the total down to 13. As a result of the MICRC's work, this is our state's new electoral map that takes effect prior to the 2022 primary and general elections. Most of Washtenaw County is in District 6. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell is relocating to Ann Arbor so she can run in this district.

THANK YOU WASHTENAW COUNTY

For seeing the BIG PICTURE

We're looking at where each of our institutions fit in the system. The millage supports collaborations that help us understand the roles we play in community mental health.

REILEY CURRAN
COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT MANAGER,
ST. JOSEPH MERCY CHELSEA

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Dreaming of a colorful winter



Instead of snow in the wintertime, I dream of a colorful winter.
Instead of having snow in
December, January,
February and Valentine's Day,
March and St Patrick's Day,
April and Easter,
I dream of no snow and seeing pretty colors.
Colors that are pretty like green, red, orange, purple,
and bright colors like yellow and pink, too.

Instead of a white Christmas and New Year's Day,
I dream of a colorful Christmas and New Year's with no snow.
I like looking at Christmas decorations and other decorations at
Christmastime,
and when Christmas is over.
I like to see these pretty colors instead of snow in the wintertime.
They help me dream of a colorful winter.

No snow to me means that I hope people can get around better
because there's no ice.
When it don't snow,
people who don't have a place to live don't have a harder time.
I still don't like the snow even if I'm inside some place warm and
watching it fall
because I think about other people that aren't as blessed as me
to be inside when it's cold and snowing.

I like when it doesn't snow
because I can see bunny rabbits and other pretty animals that are
more colorful.
Sometimes I can also see colorful flowers, butterflies,
and of course, Christmas decorations, and toys and people's cars.

Even though I don't really like snow and winter,
I do like Michigan and I like living here.
The people I know help me feel warmer in the cold winter months.

Dark angel

RON PAGERESKI

In the moonlight I saw a shadow
somewhat sinister, dark and sallow.
I walked beside it, kept the pace
was afraid to look into its face.
A specter eerie and so dark
it made no sound, its blade an arc
The reaper had not come for me
that made me feel safe and free
It left me and went on its way
it will return for me another day
my bags will be packed.

Clarity admidst obscurity



Word Prompts: Waterfall, Restless, Withdrawal
Drank a few too many tonight.
My head spinning like the soap suds
swirling and pooling in the bottom of the sink —
restless leftovers from the porcelain's rinse.
I wash away the backwashed wine,
a waterfall of red against the clarity
gained from space and time,
and I am moving on; the withdrawal
lingers like the purple stains on my dress
that match the bruises of my heart.
Yet, the pain grows duller, purling down
the stainless steel drain, and I discover
I will love another, the passion coming
with the buzz of Moscato, a rush of heat
turning my cheeks and up-turned lips pink;
the vulnerability and penetrability
of drunken truths spoken through
the eyes and gentle hands closing
dishes in their home for the evening,
as the party-goers continue to dance.
A comfortable silence of intimacy
found amidst the cacophonous din
and water gushing through the pipes
and through the veins in my chest —
such profound palpability amidst
the topsy-turvy soiree's obscurity.

Lost on celestial sea

RON PAGERESKI
Groundcover contributor

Like a derelict ship pulling into harbor
I arrived at the poetry reading in Ann Arbor.
I felt I was at an event heaven sent
her words to my chair did me cement.
I listened in awe as the angel plied her art,
her wings left a few feathers on my heart.
I tried to rise, but couldn't find my feet.
Lethargic was I, but rapid heartbeat.
I felt in a catatonic trance,
oh, how she made my soul dance.
Her words, so eloquently spoken,
warmed my heart so long broken.
She may never know
what she means to me,
forever in my heart through life's
angry sea.

Union strong! Three downtown Ann Arbor stores file intent to unionize

IZZY HEDIN-URRUTIA (they/them)
Groundcover contributor

Ann Arbor has become a union town. On February 4, three Starbucks locations in downtown Ann Arbor filed for union membership with Starbucks Workers United, a union formed as recently as January 21 to create a platform for employees to voice grievances and demand changes from Starbucks corporate. In addition, other stores outside of downtown Ann Arbor have filed for union membership—the first two stores in the district to file were at Glencoe Crossing and Jackson and Zeeb, both drive through locations outside of the University of Michigan campus. In the past few weeks, five out of eight of the Starbucks locations in Michigan to file have been in Ann Arbor. This marks a significant change in pace and trajectory from past labor activism, such as strikes at former local shop Mighty Good Coffee—rather than resulting in layoffs and closings, the Starbucks union push in Ann Arbor is powerful and increasing in momentum.

Starbucks employees are termed “partners,” a corporate endeavor to emphasize the unity and teamwork supposedly present across the company. However, for local Ann Arbor baristas and shift supervisors, the day-to-day demands of the job have felt crushing, not empowering. For Olivia*, a student and Starbucks shift supervisor, what was supposed to be a part-time job quickly became an overwhelming part of her life: “Starbucks is not the environment it pretends it is.”

Paying her own tuition, rent and costs of living, Olivia has “never worked less than twenty hours a week” and has found the unique challenges of working at a store within the university district of Ann Arbor exhausting. “When the rush comes in, and we go from having thirty drinks per hour, to all of a sudden ... [when] class gets out at 2:50 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. we get forty more drinks. So including everything we got in that last half hour, we get a sixty, seventy half hour. All of a sudden, we’ve doubled in sales.”

In addition, Olivia has felt unsafe frequently at a location where incidents happen “nightly.” Being in the unique position of shift supervisor, Olivia deals with a laundry list of responsibilities, often filling in staffing gaps and directly handling crises when they occur. Roy, a shift supervisor at a drive through location outside of the University district, finds that safety concerns and the lack of support from management is not an issue particular to downtown stores. “We’re expected to do 30, 40, 50 transactions in a half hour’s time, and every transaction

usually has a food item and a beverage.”

He cites this as the catalyst for an instance in which an unruly customer came into the café swearing and screaming. When Roy attempted to employ measures to alleviate the customer’s concerns and stop her outburst, she called him a homophobic slur. “I did not feel safe.”

As a result, Roy and other partners refused to serve, and incurred the consequences from their interim district manager, who told them they “made the wrong decision for not serving her.” After the same customer found baristas on social media and began messaging them legal threats, Roy felt compelled to file an ethics compliance case to avoid further consequences from corporate. “We got six union cards signed that day.”

Roy found himself in a precarious moment as a shift supervisor when his store manager and district manager were both let go by Starbucks last year. As a result, the shift supervisors who have stuck with the location were forced to run the store in the absence of a store manager. “We had to take on a whole bunch of extra tasks because the only thing our interim manager was doing was scheduling.”

Roy admits that he was vastly unprepared and unsupported to do the work of running an entire store. “One day it got so bad that I sent an email to the people in Buffalo, telling them that things are terrible here in Michigan. How can you help?”

Starbucks Workers United was formed by a landslide vote at a location in Buffalo, New York in December of 2021 after filing with three other stores in the area to be represented by SBWU, part of the Service Employees International Union. In filing, partners cited issues with staffing and unfair pay originating in the company long before the pandemic. Starbucks immediately pushed back against union formation, requesting the National Labor Relations Board hold the vote until all stores in the surrounding Buffalo area had filed; however, their request was denied, and subsequently came the birth of a platform for Starbucks partners to demand fair compensation, better staffing, and better safety mandates from corporate.

Starbucks has undeniably been a prominent part of the Ann Arbor city landscape. With the city’s yearly influx of students attending the University of Michigan and Washtenaw Community College, caffeine drives the everyday bustle between home, work and campus. In addition, coffee has staked its claim as the beverage of choice for other Ann Arborites as well, with eight separate coffee companies boasting multiple

locations in the city in addition to Starbucks. It’s no wonder that the corporate coffee giant, who raked in \$52.58 billion from 2020-2021 during the global COVID-19 pandemic, decided to open thirteen stores in the district alone.

Partners at five of those thirteen stores have filed for union membership, but even before then excitement for unionization had been boiling just barely beneath the surface. “Does Starbucks have a union? It’s not unfathomable to think of,” Olivia insists. She cites her low wages and her frustration with the “inaccessible” nature of corporate as her primary reasons for finding a union necessary. “I can’t even imagine how they would hear us any other way ... it seems like the only option at this point. And I think it’s always been the only option.”

Riza, a local barista at a downtown store, agrees that understanding how much the company makes versus how much workers are paid is what truly pushed her towards signing her union card: “In the last fiscal quarter, Starbucks revenues have increased 31%. That is a crazy statistic in a pandemic. And of course, I’m not seeing a 31% increase in my paycheck.”

Roy, who has been leading many of the organizing efforts since his call for help to Buffalo, agrees that low wages, among other things, have been part of the reason he feels exploited as a partner. “I feel worthless, for the amount of work I’ve had to do for our store ... the fact that what they thought to pay us was only worth two drinks, which is only a minute of our time, at best. A whole hour of my time being in the store is worth a minute to them.” Even though Starbucks in Ann Arbor pays more to employees than their average nationwide, Roy notes that his wage is still “several dollars below the livable wage in Ann Arbor.”

Alongside an increase in wages for hourly partners, other demands cited in the letter to corporate in union filings last Friday include better safety mandates that prioritize partner safety during the pandemic. Olivia wishes that corporate better addressed staffing issues so that she was more able to keep up with the high volume of orders and safety precautions more easily, while Riza finds the unwillingness of Starbucks to enforce masking in store for customers particularly egregious. “Statistically, a customer is a lot less likely to get covid from a single interaction with me than I am to get COVID from 200 customer interactions in a day.”

Roy has felt the brunt of the pandemic as a result of how quickly and carelessly he was shuffled from store to store to

address staffing gaps due to COVID-19 infections, and how little corporate cared about his and his partners’ safety as a result. After being exposed by his mother, Roy was told to “go ahead and clock in” by his store manager at work the next day despite clearly dictated COVID-19 protocols warning him not to do so.

After filing, partners report high hopes for the future, even though Starbucks corporate has failed to respond to their letters filing for membership by their set deadline of 3:00 p.m. on February 7. Olivia notes her pride in her coworkers’ comradery and efforts thus far. “I’m super confident in our ability, our power,” she said.”

Riza points out that even if corporate attempts to address complaints through other avenues, unionization would still be necessary. “Even if Starbucks was a totally amazing, perfect place to work, I still believe we should be in a union. Because I think the chance of exploitation is so high, and we need to have some protection at all times.”

Roy has felt empowered from the success of the district and in other areas of Michigan thus far, noting that the Ann Arbor district is currently the most “densely organized” and that there are plans underway to ensure smooth filing of other locations in the area.

Considering the exponential gains in revenue during a global pandemic, the unfair treatment of partners as disposable, an overwhelming load of responsibilities pushed onto employees to manage their own safety and the profitability of stores, and the offensively low wages, it is no wonder union efforts in the local Ann Arbor district have been particularly successful. Indeed, for a multi-billion dollar company with stores worldwide, unscrupulous standards and compensation have proven more than apparent. Given this, the question remains: How can the local community show their support for the movement? “Starbucks cares where you’re spending your money,” Olivia states, emphasizing the importance of the public specifically patronizing stores that boast union membership or filings.

Riza encourages community members to show support for the Congressional PRO Act, to ensure that union-busting tactics are deemed illegal in general, not just for Starbucks. And Roy sees the power in garnering support from City Council leaders in future aspirations for the movement, in addition to visible and substantial support from patrons in the following months as the front shifts into action. “We just need people to show up.”

**All names have been changed to protect anonymity of workers.*

The power of writing

To my fellow young writers and students:

In the years before I attended the University of Michigan, I spent my young life despising change and attention. My desire to hide in the shadows and never share my thoughts clouded what I truly needed to understand.

The power of writing.

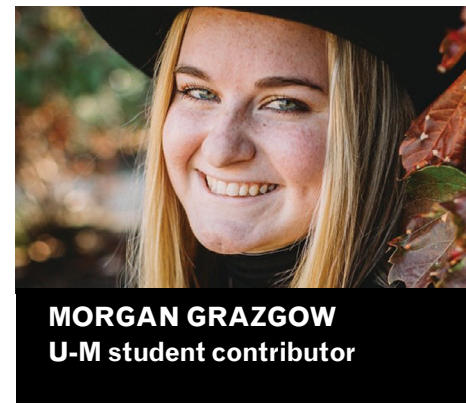
I was the shy and quiet kid that feared sharing my opinions. I kept to myself and often lacked expression for my emotions. I avoided debate and conflict because I felt it was better to withhold my opinions than to share them and seek change for the issues that needed attention. But now, I believe I have come a long way. I am writing to address those who fear exposure and attention, like my younger self, because each of us has unique experiences and perspectives that are worthy of being told.

For years, I believed that writing was unbearable and the only time I wrote was for required classes. It was a lengthy, boring and unenjoyable process that I never wanted to spend time on. As an artist, I preferred telling my stories through painting, drawing and creating, not by typing or writing words down. But then, little by little, I realized that writing holds just as much beauty as fine arts. I became aware of the significance of writing and learned about the various techniques and ways to make it my own.

Writing provides an escape from your own thoughts because you’re able to share whatever you desire with anyone. Each of our stories are what makes us who we are and writing provides a perfect spotlight for artistic expression. It supplies a freedom in which you’re able to sculpt every bit of it to make the perfect point and advocate for the topics you wish to address. The most salient piece to understand is that the art of writing can also be used for what we most demand: social change.

My experiences over the past couple months have changed my perspective on society and writing, allowing me to develop a new love and passion. As an eighteen-year-old, I left my old life behind and moved to a new school, with new people, in a new city. I have learned to love the atmosphere that the University of Michigan has provided me and have gained stronger perspectives about life. In deciding to take a community-based writing class, I had near-to-no expectations. But my non-expectations were well exceeded because the new love and passion I developed was writing. I quickly perceived writing as another form of art and was able to use it in my favor.

Writing is both an artistic expression



MORGAN GRAIZOW
U-M student contributor

and something that has a fundamental significance, as it is able to heavily affect society. One specific example of how writing can provide social change is a local organization called Groundcover. My interaction with Groundcover News of Ann Arbor has allowed me to gain a new viewpoint.

This establishment provides a place for people from the homeless and low-income communities to share their stories and news through the writing of their own experiences. These vendors are housing insecure and economically marginalized people seeking employment. Their writing allows them to educate and raise awareness for topics of their choice, which may draw in other members of society. Local citizens are able to purchase Groundcover on various street corners for little money and are able to read the variety of articles in each edition. By purchasing the newspaper, they are aiding those who are a part of the economically disenfranchised community. The money the vendors make allows them to have a steady income and slowly return as contributing members of society.

This specific example of writing helps the homeless community of Ann Arbor because all of the vendors are able to get employment without the requirement that most employers seek. The broken wheel of society provides limited options for this specific community because in order to get employment, they must provide a residence; however, in order to have a stable place to reside, one must have a job. Therefore, the overall process of Groundcover provides numerous benefits for everyone and it is one of the many ways that the art of writing contributes to society.

Even after a brief encounter with that organization, I was able to take in a lot about the homeless community and differentiate them from traditional stereotypes. In addition, I was able to share my own personal experiences through the publication of my work in Groundcover. I published my first piece of writing, titled The Beauty and Burdens of Deafness, in the Groundcover special edition last fall, which was the start of my changing

perspective for the art of writing. The article shared my story on what it is like to be a Deaf college student and suggested ways to better interact with those a part of the Deaf community.

I shared my writing to make a more accessible and inclusive community and possibly inspire others to share their words as well. Due to that article, I find that I am more confident in both myself and my writing because of my desire to change society at a local level and my new understanding of the liberal arts. With that, I am more likely to stick up for others and my improved understanding of various communities taught me how to be a better advocate for them.

I was able to gain more confidence and clarity about my place in society, and I hope that you can as well.

In order for you to understand your place in society as well, we each need to become better contributing members of society. We each must play a role. Although each of our roles are different, the one we all share is making society a safe place for all.

The root of making society safer begins with social change.

Social change cannot happen without raising questions to the problems that have been buried within our communities. It cannot happen without each individual being open to change and allowing themselves to expand their perspectives. It cannot happen without addressing the differences between each community and allowing yourself to be immersed in the beauty of difference. It cannot happen without behavioral change and realization that we all come from different experiences, which cannot be compared. It cannot happen without technical change at a local level and then expanding to a national governmental level to make society a safer place for

not some, but all individuals. And all of that cannot happen without the one thing that raises the questions: writing.

It all begins with raising awareness and advocating for the topics that require addressing.

Awareness can be raised through the art of writing by sharing your perspective on the world around you and encouraging society to change their views. With more of us sharing our stories and advocating for local and global issues, society will slowly become more educated on those issues, which will allow change to be made. Each of us has a powerful story to tell and the best way to do that is through writing.

Change is only made if the world is aware there needs to be change.

Once these issues have been advocated, slowly the personal growth of each of us will change our perspectives, ensuring a natural progression of behavioral change to make society a safer place for everyone. We are in dire need of accessibility, inclusivity and safety. With a behavioral progression towards each other, we can push for technical changes at a governmental level. These technical changes cannot happen until a majority of members of society are on the same page. Whether it’s a new governmental policy or a recently elected official, the most important part is the minds of the citizens. In order for the technical changes to work, we all must have an open mind and seek a deeper understanding of one another.

It is time that we stop hiding in the shadows and concealing the thing that we truly need to understand.

The power of writing.

*Best regards from a fellow young writer,
Morgan*



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312 W Huron St.
734-662-2829

Housing Access for
Washtenaw County (HAWC)
734-961-1999
M-F: 8:30am-5pm

Safehouse
4100 Clark Rd.
24 hr crisis/help line: 734-995-5444
M-F: 9am-5pm

HOT MEALS

Robert J Delonis Center
312 W Huron St.
734-662-2829
Lunch: M-F 12-1pm, Sat & Sun 3-4pm
Dinner: M-F 5:30-6:30pm

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
306 N Division St.
734-663-0518
Breakfast: 7:30-8:30am, 7 days a wk

MENTAL HEALTH

Community Mental Health
555 Towner St. (Ypsilanti)
M-F: 8:30am-5pm
CRISIS HOTLINE: 734-544-3050

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Friends in Deed
1196 Ecorse Rd. (Ypsilanti)
Help Line: 734-484-4357
Circles Line: 734-340-9042
Administrative Line: 734-485-7658
Helpline@FriendsinDeedMI.org

SOS Community Services
114 N River St. (Ypsilanti)
734-484-5411

LEGAL SUPPORT

Legal Services of
South Central Michigan
15 S. Washington St. (Ypsilanti)
734-665-6181
M-F: 9am-5pm

Washtenaw County Prosecutor's
Conviction Integrity & Expungement
Unit (CIEU)
888-783-8190
M-Th: 9am-5pm, F: 9am-1pm
CIEU@washtenaw.org
expungement@mwse.org

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Michigan Works
304 Harriet St. (Ypsilanti)
Mon, Wed, Fri: 8am-5pm
Tues: 8am-7pm
734-714-9814

SHOWERS/LAUNDRY

Mercy House
805 W Huron St.
734-678-9818
Sat breakfast 10am-2pm

Peace House Ypsi
706 Davis (Ypsilanti)
734-754-0648
Sun brunch 10am-1pm

Journey of Faith New Beginnings
Homeless Ministry
1900 Manchester Rd.
734-945-7825
M-W by appointment
Fri food distribution

DRUG/ALCOHOL TREATMENT

Spera Detox
502 W Huron St.
734-669-8265

Home of New Vision's
Engagement Center
103 Arnet St. (Ypsilanti)
Open 24 hrs, 18+ years only
734-879-1101

COVID FUND ACCESS

OCED Barrier Buster
Emergency Funding
734-544-6748

WINTER RESOURCES

DAYTIME WARMING CENTER
The Ann Arbor Daytime Warming Center rotation is from Dec. 1 through March 31 (weekdays) 9 p.m. - 4 p.m. Serves a meal at around noon every day and keeps food out through much of the day. Every Wednesday Fed Up Ministries will supply the meal with their delicious and nutritious fresh food. In February the warming center is at First Baptist (517 E. Washington).

YPSILANTI WARMING CENTER
100 Market Place, Ypsilanti MI 48197
Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Drop-in warming center run by the Delonis Center.

PURPLE HOUSE
3501 Stone School Rd. Ann Arbor 48104
Purple House will serve a prepared meal every Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Every other week the meal will be sponsored by Washtenaw Camp Outreach. 734-929-4044 to request assistance.
Weather Amnesty emergency shelter is running nightly 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. at Purple House until the beginning of April.

WASHTENAW CAMP OUTREACH
WCO is a community outreach group and survival program made up of individuals from other organizations, unaffiliated individuals and people who are experiencing homelessness. They visit outdoor camps, gather supplies and food to distribute and help clean campsites. If your camp is being evicted, they want to know. Call at 734-238-3639 or message their Facebook page www.facebook.com/washcampoutreach.

Resources reprinted from the General Defense Committee Street Survival Guide

CORNER HEALTH CENTER (COVID-19 VACCINES)
47 N Huron St. Ypsilanti MI 48197, 734-484-3600
APPOINTMENT ONLY
Monday 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Wednesday 1:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday: Closed.

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Bethlehem-ucc.org facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office

FEBRUARY 2022 EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM

In person events are just starting to resume at BUCC. We ask that you visit the church website at: bethlehem-ucc.org for the most up-to-date calendar and event information.

Sunday Worship Time
10:00 am In-person
and via Live Stream and
Radio Broadcast

Sudoku

★★★★☆ 4puz.com

3		2	4					
9				7	6			
5			1	3	8			2
6	4							9
	9						2	
8							7	5
2			3	9	7			8
			6	8				3
					4	7		6

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

➡ **DISTRICTS** from page 6

to produce and test the plan." The adopted plan becomes law 60 days after the MICRC publishes their report.

Per Clara Hendrickson and Todd Spangler of the *Detroit Free Press*, "According to three measures of partisan fairness based on statewide election data from the past decade, the map favors Republicans. But those measures also show a significant reduction in the Republican bias compared to the map drawn a decade ago by a Republican legislature, deemed one of the most politically biased maps in the country."

The status

The new voting districts have been approved by the state legislators, but the Detroit Caucus, a group of lawmakers representing the city in the state legislature, has filed a lawsuit seeking to increase the share of black voters in certain districts. The MICRC redistricting commission argued in a recent court filing this suit could actually threaten Black voters' representation. In addition, certain Republican lawmakers have filed a lawsuit challenging aspects of the congressional map.

While the outcomes of these suits are pending (at the time of publication), the current maps will be used in upcoming elections, and if changes are needed, the redistricting commission will be the group tasked

with making them.

As mentioned previously, while not perfect, Michigan's redistricting process stands above other states' efforts in terms of removing partisan bias from the process. A recent Zoom event sponsored by the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy and Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research sheds further light on the redistricting process. In that January 19 session, noted author and political observer David Daley commented on the mixed results of redistricting efforts in states such as Arizona and Ohio while noting the objectivity of Michigan's process.

For a replay of this session on Michigan's redistricting go online to <https://fordschool.umich.edu/events/past> and search keywords 'Michigan redistricting.'

The MICRC continues to support community outreach and communications to explain their redistricting process and the conclusions they reached. No redistricting effort makes everyone happy, but as state residents we should feel proud of an initiative trying to place political power with the people, not with the politicians.

WORD SEARCH: MOVIES!

C	C	D	O	G	M	A	G	A	N	D	H	I	N	K
A	O	R	N	Z	C	I	I	T	A	N	K	U	C	V
P	L	N	A	R	B	A	S	O	C	Z	G	I	D	O
O	G	C	A	S	E	D	R	Y	O	P	L	Z	A	L
T	J	Q	H	I	H	D	T	S	O	C	X	I	X	V
E	H	T	Y	C	R	U	R	T	K	M	A	S	H	E
G	I	G	L	I	L	P	L	O	O	P	E	R	S	R
T	G	R	T	S	S	A	O	R	A	Y	Q	A	H	T
I	H	H	I	T	C	H	S	Y	T	D	E	S	A	W
T	L	E	O	G	C	R	F	S	Y	R	U	E	R	A
A	A	U	S	S	T	A	E	R	G	R	H	H	O	L
N	N	A	O	O	T	R	R	A	O	N	C	E	O	L
I	D	R	J	U	N	O	O	R	M	Z	O	O	M	E
C	E	G	S	H	I	N	E	Y	I	C	E	A	G	E
H	R	O	Q	C	L	E	R	K	S	E	O	N	E	T

WORD	Crash	Hook	Shine
BANK:	Dogma	Ice Age	Tank
Argo	E.T.	Juno	The Son
Basoc	Frozen	Looper	Titanic
Big	Gandhi	Mash	Top Gun
Capote	Ghost	Once	Toy Story
Carrie	Gigli	Ray	Troy
Cars	Grease	Red Road	Up
Class	Heat	Room	Volver
Clerks	Hero	Rush	Wall E
Click	Highlander	Saw	Zoom
Con Air	Hitch	Scream	

9	6	2	4	2	5	8	3	1
3	5	2	1	8	9	6	7	4
8	1	8	7	6	3	9	5	2
5	2	9	3	4	6	1	2	8
4	2	4	5	1	9	8	3	6
6	8	3	2	1	7	4	5	9
2	4	6	8	3	1	7	9	5
1	3	5	9	7	2	4	8	6
7	9	8	6	5	4	2	1	3

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Broccoli cheese soup

JUSTEN WHITE

Groundcover vendor No. 543

Ingredients:

½ cup butter
1 cup diced onion
16 oz chopped broccoli
16 oz chicken or vegetable broth
1 lb Velveeta cheese
2 cup milk
1 Tbsp garlic powder
¾ cup cornstarch
1 cup water



Directions:

Cook onion in butter until tender. Add broccoli and broth, simmer 10-15 minutes. Reduce heat and add cheese to melt. Add garlic powder

and milk. In a small bowl, add water to cornstarch and mix well. Stir into soup, stirring frequently until thick.



St. Francis invites you
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to come and meet Christ Jesus who
loves each one of us and who is really
present here to save us.

*"If God were your Father, you would love me,
for I came from God and am here;
I did not come on my own, but he sent me."*
+ Christ Jesus (John 8:42)

Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil 5 pm & 7 pm (español);
Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm.
Daily Mon-Fri at 9:15am; Thurs Mass is
followed by a Holy Hour.

**On Ash Wednesday, March 1st our Masses are at
7am, 9:15am, 12:15am and 7pm.**

Spanish: stfrancisa2.com/misa
English: stfrancisa2.com/mass

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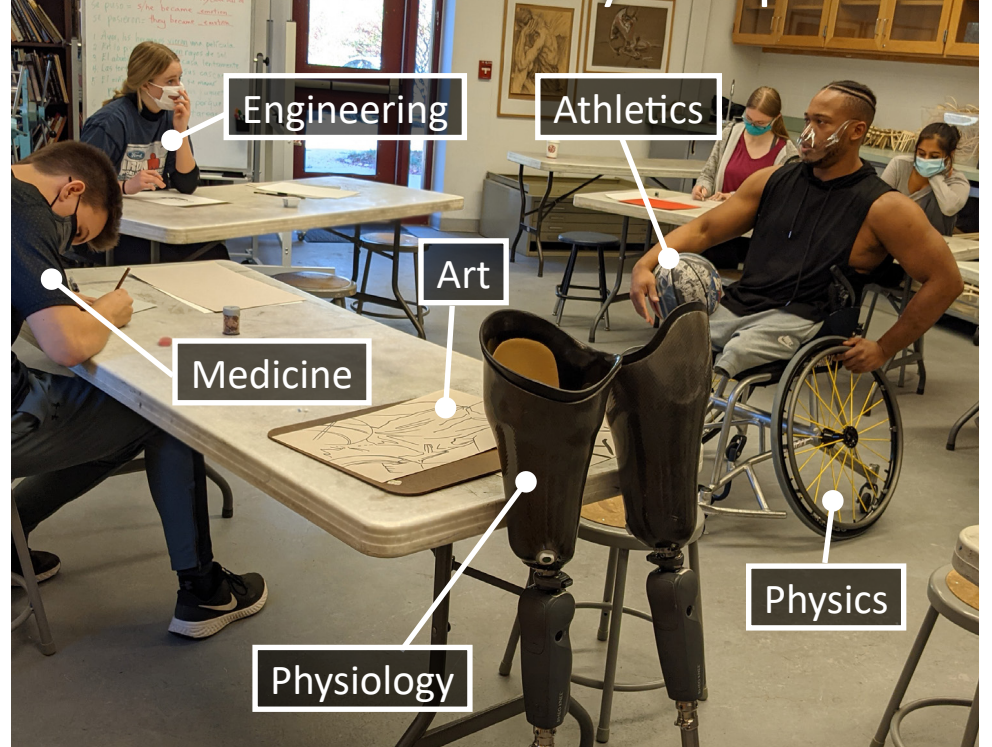
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